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FOREST ENTOMOLOGY 4.

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Brief Information on

INSECT DAMAGE TO MANUFACTURED UNSEASONED FOREST PRODUCTS
and ITS PREVENTION.

Character and Extent of Damage.— Freshly sawed hardwood lumber lying in close piles is liable to attack by pinhole borers during July, August and September, especially during damp weather. These borers are known as ambrosia beetles, pinworms etc. They work only in wood of a certain degree of moisture, hence any agency or combination of them, like close piling, bark on the wood, or damp weather, which retards drying, will at the same time attract these beetles. Under such conditions timber may be reduced as much as 50% in value within a few weeks.

Remedy.— Timber, once attacked, is damaged beyond repair, but taken in time, further damage can be stopped, where practicable, by submergence in water or saturating with kerosene.

Prevention.— The most general advice that can be offered in this connection is,

- (1) Manufacture as far as possible all heavy dimension hardwood during the winter months.
- (2) Take all possible steps to expedite the drying of material manufactured during the warm season.
 - (a) by removing all the bark before or immediately after it is sawed
 - (b) by loose piling so as to provide free circulation of air and sunshine.

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